in the Capital; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. DTC has approximately 5500 bus stops in the city operational area out of which 3967 are not covered with Bus Queue Shelters.

(c) and (d) 66 Bus Queue Shelters have been constructed at DTC bus stops during the last three years.

The Delhi Transport Corporation has entrusted the work of construction of 320 bus queue shelters in Delhi to the CPWD in December, 1990. Besides, the NDMC propose to construct 10 bus queue shelters during the current financial year.

Construction and maintenance of roads and running of public transport system by private sector

1506. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is urgent need to encourage the private sector to enter into construction and maintenance of roads and also to run public transport system;

(b) if so, whether the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has also suggested similar views to the Government; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (c) Yes, Sir. The private sector is already participating in many areas of the public transportation system. About 2/3rd of the passenger buses in the country are owned and operated by private operators. The private construction companies are playing a dominant role in undertaking road and bridge construction projects, funded by Government. Further ways of associating private sector with the financing of road constructions are being examined by Government.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Fire in Jhuggis in the Capital

1507. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of jhuggis clusters were raged by the fire in March and April this year in the Capital;

(b) if so, the number thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that many jhuggi dwellers were burnt alive in these fires;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof;

(e) whether any compensation was paid by Government to the victims;

(f) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(g) what were the causes of these fires?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) and (b) During the month of March & April, 1991, 16 fires took place in jhuggi-jhopri clusters in the Capital.

(c) and (d) Sixteen persons were killed and 11 injured in these fires. Of these killed 9 were major and 7 minor.

(e) and (f) The next of the kin of the deceased, who were major and those who were minor, were given ex-gratia relief at the rate of Rs. 20,000/- and Rs. 10,000/- respectively. A sum of Rs. 1,10,000/- has been disbursed amongst those injured. Besides an amount of Rs. 16,53,000 has been paid to the affected jhuggi dwellers.

(g) The probable cause of fires in the cases where the cause was identified was dropped light and electric short circuit.